

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FOR STATE AND DOT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, FR

SUBJECT: DOT INVITATION TO TRANSPORT MINISTER

REF: PARIS 14335

1. WE ASSUME THAT THERE WILL BE INTEREST IN DOT IN EXTENDING TO CAVAILLE, NEW SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRANSPORT, INVITATION TO VISIT US THAT WAS PREVIOUSLY EXTENDED SUCCESSIVELY TO GUENA AND ACHILLE-FOULD. WHILE CAVAILLE AS SECRETARY OF STATE IS JUNIOR MINISTER WHO FROM PROTOCOL STANDPOINT RANKS LOWER THAN FULL MINISTER IN GOF AND THUS LOWER THAN CABINET OFFICER IN USG, CAVAILLE IS AMONG SECRETARIES OF STATE DESCRIBED BY PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTAING AS BEING "AUTONOMOUS" IN SENSE THAT THEY ARE NOT UNDER ANOTHER FULL MINISTER BUT REPORT DIRECTLY TO PRIME MINISTER. (SEE PARIS 13364). CAVAILLE IS THUS "THE TRANSPORT MINISTER" TO EXTENT PRESENT GOF HAS ONE. HENCE, SUBJECT TO VIEWS OF PROTOCOL IN STATE, WE CONSIDER THAT IT WOULD BE APPROPRIATE FOR RENEWED INVITATION, SHOULD IT BE FORTHCOMING, TO BE CONVEYED FROM SECRETARY BRINEGAR TO CAVAILLE AND THAT SECRETARY BRINEGAR

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MIGHT ALSO ADDRESS VIA EMBASSY SUITABLE MESSAGE

OF CONGRATULATIONS TO CAVAILLE ON HIS APPOINTMENT
SHOULD THIS BE DESIRED (AS WAS DONE WITH GUICHARD).

2. SINCE CAVAILLE HAS VERY ACTIVE PERSONAL INTEREST
IN FUTURE OF CONCORDE PROGRAM (REFTEL), WE SUGGEST
THAT MIGHT BE PREFERABLE, HOWEVER, NOT TO RELAUNCH
INVITATION UNTIL HE HAS SETTLED INTO HIS NEW JOB
AND, SPECIFICALLY, UNTIL AFTER FRANCO-BRITISH
MINISTERIAL DECISION ON CONCORDE'S FUTURE HAS BEEN
TAKEN. OTHERWISE, IT IS POSSIBLE THAT WE MIGHT FIND
CAVAILLE ANXIOUS TO GO TO US AT EARLY DATE MAINLY
TO DISCUSS CONCORDE PROBLEMS; QUITE APART FROM
DELICACY OF CONCORDE ISSUES NOW AND AFTER EVENTUAL
FRANCO-BRITISH DECISION, WE PRESUME THAT DOT INTEREST
IS IN ESTABLISHING WORKING RAPPORT WITH CAVAILLE
AS BASIS FOR FUTURE COOPERATION AND GIVING HIM
BROAD EXPOSURE TO TRANSPORTATION SECTOR IN US. IN
OUR VIEW THESE OBJECTIVES COULD BETTER BE ACHIEVED
ONCE CONCORDE HAS, FOR THE TIME BEING, RECEDED AS
A SUBJECT OF IMMEDIATE CONCERN FOR THE GOF.

3. TO BE SURE, INVITATION COULD BE CONVEYED SOON
FOR A PROPOSED DATE IN THE MORE DISTANT FUTURE.
HOWEVER, WE THINK THAT ON BALANCE IT WOULD BE
PREFERABLE TO HOLD UP ON INVITATION, ESPECIALLY
SINCE UNLIKE CIRCUMSTANCE OF TRANSFERENCE OF GUENA
INVITATION TO ACHILLE-FOULD THERE HAS BEEN COMPLETE
CHANGE OF GOVERNMENT AND REGIME IN MEANTIME.
IRWIN

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